

## From the Principals Desk

### Opening of the New Administration Building

The new administration building was finally opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We were thrilled to have Rupert Harrison, the oldest ex pupil cut the ribbon and the Mayor of Waimate, Craig Rowley declared the opening of the building. Wendy Heath, our kaumatua blessed the building as she led visitors through the doors to view the space for the first time.

Kevin Cromie, the oldest ex pupil living in the district, planted a tree in commemoration of the opening alongside his grandson Tom Studholme, the youngest pupil at school and a 5<sup>th</sup> generation family member, to attend Waihao Downs School.

Raewyn Francis cut the cake in honour of the new building. Raewyn started teaching in the junior room at Waihao Downs School in 1988 and went on to become the principal from 1995 to 2007. The beautiful cake was created by Lara Welsh who has two children attending Waihao Downs School.

Our students supported the principal's speech with a waiata "Tūtira Mai Nga Iwi" and provided a wonderful performance singing the song "Celebrate" with actions, pom poms and party poppers to add to the celebration.



### Saturday Netball

Waimate Netball Centre are trying to see whether there is any interest in year 5&6 students wanting to take part in the Saturday netball competition this year. Please contact Megan at [wtenetball@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wtenetball@xtra.co.nz) if you are interested so that they can organize teams for this.

### EASTER WEEKEND

Reminder that school is **Closed** for Easter Friday, Easter Monday and Easter Tuesday. School is open again on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### Paid Union Meeting

Teachers will be attending a Paid Union Meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 1pm. The school will remain open but no formal instruction will take place during this time. Students will be supervised by the principal and two teacher aides. Children can be picked up from 12.30pm on the day. We will post up a notice on HERO at the end of the week so we can establish if children can be picked up earlier. This will help with planning for buses and the afternoons supervision.

### Miniball/Basketball

Term 2 is basketball season. Year 7/8 competition runs on a Wednesday after school and all games are finished by 5pm. Year 3/4 and 5/6 runs on a Friday after school and can be played anytime from 3.30 until 6pm. The cost per child is \$45 for the season. We provide a singlet to play in and they just need to have some sneakers and school shorts. Please return the form below to show your interest.

My child/ren \_\_\_\_\_ will participate in basketball this year.

Please circle the year group

Yr 3/4      Yr 5/6      Yr 7/8

I \_\_\_\_\_ am keen to help coach a team.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ can help with refereeing

I \_\_\_\_\_ am prepared to learn about coaching/ refereeing (please circle) to support a team where needed.

**Please return form by Thursday 28 of March.**

Last week Rākau participated in the Internal School EPro8 challenge. EPro8 involves completing primarily engineering challenges in small teams to earn points and proceed to create and solve a problem. Many of the students hadn't worked with the EPro8 equipment before and once they got their heads around the tasks at hand, they thoroughly enjoyed the challenges they faced. The kits are primarily made up of aluminum rods, joiners, wheels pulleys and cogs and from this could choose from the challenges, work as a team and construct either, a tower crane, fire engine, guard dog, puppet show or the classic buzzy bee kid's toy.

The year 5/6 and year 7/8 teams to progress to the inter school event at Oamaru are as follows:

Year 5/6  
Dudley Robertson  
Alfie McKerchar  
Baxter Flett  
Scarlett Harborne



Year 7/8  
Chelsy Vergara  
Sahina Guatam  
Pyper Zwies  
Chloe Nobleza



## Kelcey's Bush Trip

What an adventure we had. The children were fully engaged the whole day with the variety of activities we had on hand. Debbie Eddington showed us exactly what creatures were living in the creek and we got to transfer and count them and identify what they were. Even the adults all learnt something, I think. The nest making was popular and the children were oh so creative and it was wonderful to see what could be made out of things in the environment. Kakano had a quick walk up to the waterfall too. We were proud of the children and the great team work they showed too. Thanks to Debbie and all the parent helpers it helped to make it a great day.



## Term 1 Calendar

**Term 1 Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

### Week 8 Term 1

Wed 20 March	Hot Lunch Newsletter
Thursday 21 March	
Friday 22 March	Hot Lunch

### Week 9 Term 1

Monday 25 March	Hot Lunch
Tuesday 26 March	Subway
Wed 27 March	Hot Lunch <b>BOT Meeting 3.30pm</b>
Thursday 28 March	

Friday 29 March	Easter Friday <b>No School</b>
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### Week 10 Term 1

Monday 1 April	Easter Monday <b>No School</b>
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Tuesday 2 April	Easter Tuesday <b>No School</b>
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Wed 3 April	
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Thursday 4 April	
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Friday 5 April	<b>Pihinga Assembly</b>
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### Week 11 Term 1

Monday 8 April	Hot Lunch
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Tuesday 9 April	Subway
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Wednesday 10 April	Hot Lunch Newsletter
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## From BOT

### Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan also known as a plan on a page is now up on our website along with our annual plan. The plan was written after consultation from staff, students and the school community.

Thank you for your input into the strategic direction of our school.

The Strategic Plan will be on display in the school office and posted up on HERO.

## Waimate Junior Soccer Club

Registration and training for primary school children will commence on March 11th and 12th at Centennial Field - 3.30 to 4.30pm each day. Why not come along and have a go? For further information please contact Tim Soper 027 6775678

## Welcome New Students

A very warm welcome to Arlo Matthews who has started in Pihinga.

We hope you have a fantastic time at Waihao Downs School.



## Parent Interviews

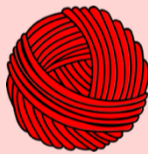
Thank you to the parents/caregivers who attended parent interviews. If you miss out on an interview, please phone the school to arrange an appointment to see your child's teacher.

## School Pool

The School Pool will close after Easter Weekend, on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, please return keys to the office by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

## Merino School Tops

Please let the office know if you are interested in ordering a merino top for your child/ren. Orders need to be in by the Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of April.



## Awards from Assembly

### Principals Award

Zara Nash

### Playground Award

Alfie McKerchar

### Class Certificates

**Kākano** – Wyatt Boyd, Harriet Studholme, Leo Trebula, Addison-Rose Mehrtens, Mac Farley

**Pihinga** – Olivia Henshaw, Jaxon Boyd, Kendall Jamieson, Kaitlyn Verrall

**Rākau** – Zoe Goodwin, Georgie Johnon, Chloe Nobleza,





58 Mount Harris Rd, Waihao Downs  
 ☎ 027 521 4600 ✉ headkandynz@gmail.com

**PRIMARY SCHOOL KIDS**  
It's challenge time ... Big Easy style!

**Primary School Kids Challenge event**  
Entry is in Teams of TWO - One kid does the 5km walk/run and the other kid does the 7km bike ride ... awesome fun!

**CALLING ALL STUDENTS! BE PART OF THE ACTION AT THE BIG EASY!**

**Whitehorse BIG Easy**

**RUN IT - WALK IT - BIKE IT**

**Raising money for your school!**  
Each team will receive a give-a-little page, with a target of raising over \$100. 75% of all funds raised will go towards their local school - and the rest to an amazing local charity. This is a great way to get the kids active and having fun, while raising money for their school and local community.

**SUNDAY 07 APR 2024 WAIMATE**

**whitehorsebigeasy.co.nz**  /WhitehorseBigEasy

**HOW TO ENTER** Contact - Ryan Luckman 027 405 2772 | whitehorsebigeasy@gmail.com

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

28<sup>th</sup> March Sharmel Quilla  
 4<sup>th</sup> April Harper Bailey  
 4<sup>th</sup> April Molly Bailey  
 9<sup>th</sup> April Emma Pankhurst



## WAIMATE JAB RUGBY

### 'HAVE A GO DAY'

There will be a fun 'have a go day' For all grades from YEAR 3 to YEAR 8.  
 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 12pm-1.30pm at the Waimate Rugby Grounds.  
 Come along and give rugby a go!! Free sausage sizzle and Registration available on the day.

Midgets Rugby 'Have a go day' For all grades from YEAR 0 to YEAR 2 will be held Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 12.30pm at the Waimate Rugby Grounds.

Check out our Facebook page Waimate JAB Rugby for more info.